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EAST BAY LABOR JOURNAL

THE ONLY OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF ORGANIZED LABOR IN ALAMEDA COUNTY

Owned, Controlled and Published by Central Labor Council of Alameda County—AFLCIO and Building and Construction Trades Council of Alameda County—AFLCIO

VOLUME XLIII NUMBER 15

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 1969

SINGLE COPIES TEN CENTS

from the EDITOR'S CHAIR

The power of a preconceived idea is more formidable than most things in this world. An idea that is deeply dug-in is proof against the facts, which only confuse the possessor of said preconceived idea and make him cling to it the harder, no matter how ridiculous it might be.

One of the weirdest examples of this occurred back in the 1950s when a Scandinavian freighter named the Fernstream sank just inside the Bay after colliding with an American merchant ship, whose name escapes me but I think she was a Matson freighter.

★ ★ ★

A NOW defunct daily newspaper somehow got the Fernstream's name as the Feinstein. With a name like that, it had to be Jewish, so the reporter who covered the story or the rewrite man he phoned it in to decided that the sunken ship was an Israeli vessel.

That was bad enough, but wait. A photographer for the paper had got a photo of the ship on her way down. The retouch artist went along with the prevailing idea and painted the Israeli flag on the stern flag-staff.

So for at least one edition, the late MS Fernstream was in word and picture the Feinstein, pride of the Israeli merchant marine. (Actually, Israel was so new at that time that I doubt she had a merchant marine.)

★ ★ ★

NOW LET'S take another nastier example of the preconceived idea. A photographer on the paper I was working for at that same time had the preconceived idea that all black people were inferior and he, being white, was their superior. In other words, this bigot hated black people.

He was driving me down the Bayshore Freeway en route to an assignment, when a woman driver cut in most impolitely forcing him to hit the brakes, change lanes and altogether react quickly or become a highway statistic.

"That black!!!!" he said, surprising me, because the lady looked very white to me. And so she was when we caught up and he cut in on her to teach her a lesson.

"She's white," I told him. "Looks Irish," I added since he claimed to be Irish although no credit to the race.

"You don't say," he said, not believing me, since he believed that black people were the cause of all evil and anyone who misbehaved had to be black, no matter what his eyes told him.

This gentleman, who drank much more than he should, later drank himself out of a job and died.

The hell where he is now residing has to be a bar with a black bartender who continually refuses to sell him a drink.

★ ★ ★

ONE PRECONCEIVED idea did not pan out this month. It

MORE on Page 12

EBMUD and union in agreement on pact

11th hour talks avert Kaiser hospital strike

Eleventh hour negotiations averted a strike Monday of 900 clerical and technical employees of Kaiser Hospital and facilities in Oakland, Berkeley, Richmond and Hayward.

Agreement was reached at 6 p.m. Sunday — 13 hours before the strike deadline—on a two-year pact providing average wage increases of 11¾ per cent retroactive to May 1 with another average 6 per cent increase next May 1.

The contract proposal was submitted to the membership of Office & Professional Employees 29 for ratification Tuesday night.

In addition to the wage hikes the agreement includes a dental plan effective August 1, improved medical coverage effective November 1, increased sick leave benefits, five weeks vacation after 20 years, better night differential, and improved language in seniority, scheduling and holiday clauses.

The old contract had expired May 1. It was extended to June 1 and employees were working without a contract when the strike deadline was set.

Executive Secretary-Treasurer Richard K. Groulx of the Alameda County Central Labor Council, returning from a conference in Puerto Rico Sunday, was called into the last minute negotiations.

"We grabbed him as he got off the plane," said Joe Nedham, senior business agent of Local 29.

Delano caravan leaves tomorrow

Mediation sessions with some Southern California grape growers has not stopped the need of Delano strikers for food and money.

The next auto caravan from Oakland will leave tomorrow, Saturday, June 28. The motorcade will set off at 7 a.m. from 568 47th Street, Oakland.

Those making the trip who need a ride or have space in their cars for food or other passengers should telephone 655-3256 between 8 and 9 a.m. or after 7 p.m.

Hungry members of the AFL-CIO United Farm Workers Organizing Committee at Delano are in their fourth year of strike against the wealthy vineyardists.

• John L. Lewis—a man for his time

- A taxpayer's fair share
- Hunger hides under California's riches
- The truth about your borrowed billions



● Inside Issue--pages 5-8

Bargaining sessions underway between growers and UFWOC

Ten major California vineyardists were meeting this week in Los Angeles with the AFLCIO United Farm Workers Organizing Committee in mediation sessions seeking the first union contract for growers of table grapes.

A top three-man team of the Federal Mediation & Conciliation Service presided over the historic session which began June 20.

By Monday talks had progressed to joint sessions. After a Tuesday recess they resumed Wednesday.

Edwin M. Scott, regional director of the Mediation Service who took personal charge, said they would continue "the balance of the week if necessary to determine whatever is necessary to put into the agreement."

Participants temporarily set aside the determination of whether UFWOC actually represented workers of the 10 growers, and moved on toward the heart of a proposed contract. UFWOC was confident.

The 10 growers had asked the FMCS to set up the sessions because "We are definitely hurting" from the 3½ year old international boycott of California table grapes.

The 10, with major vineyards in Coachella Valley of Imperial County and the Arvin District of Kern County, are variously reported as producing between 10 and 30 per cent of all California table grapes.

Spokesmen who said they represented most other table grape growers said they would continue to fight the union.

Meanwhile, in another "signi-

ficant first," Ethel Kennedy announced she would attend a fund raising benefit for UFWOC at a Long Island estate in New York this weekend. It will be the first public appearance of the widow of the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy, not connected with a family project, since his assassination.

She has chosen California's organized grape pickers as one of her worthy causes and plans to visit UFWOC leader Cesar Chavez in Delano in the near future.

Retail Clerks picketing White Front in Newark

Retail Clerks 870 began picketing the White Front store in Newark Monday after the chain refused to extend its contract to the new operation.

"We are picketing to advise the public of the company's unfair actions and its disregard of its obligations," said President Charles F. Jones of Local 870. "We are appealing to the public to cease patronizing the store."

The union has filed unfair labor practice charges against the company with the National Labor Relations Board. The union accused the company of disregarding its contractual obligations and of violating employee rights.

Holdup men please note

The cashless society is here for Millmen's 550. By membership vote dues must be paid by check or money order. The change removes any lure for burglars.

Pact provides wage hikes & joint studies

A week of court injunctions and job suspensions by the East Bay Municipal Utility District ended suddenly Tuesday in agreement on a contract with striking AFSCME-EBMUD 444.

The new agreement included a 7.4 per cent increase now — with slightly over 6.7 per cent going to wages and the rest on fringes, plus an additional 1 per cent of payroll set aside for cost of living increases.

Also involved was provision for a joint study of wage inequities as soon as possible. These inequities have been a major gripe of members of AFSCME 444 who struck Friday the 13th.

The agreement provided for lifting job suspensions imposed on strikers who refused to return to work Monday under a direct EBMUD order and a Superior Court restraining order against the union striking or picketing.

The abrupt change in the attitude of EBMUD came when Richard K. Groulx, executive secretary-treasurer of the Alameda County Central Labor Council, appeared before the Board of Directors Tuesday and pointed out the deficient service rendered the water district by Howard S. Block of Santa Ana whom the district had employed as a consultant in its dealings with the union.

The board room was packed with an overflow crowd. Directors agreed to negotiate. The initial pact was worked out by negotiating teams headed by Groulx and EBMUD General Manager John Arnett.

Subsequently the EBMUD board and a special membership meeting of Local 444 approved.

In his appearance before directors Groulx did not go as far as he had said he would during a news conference on Monday. Then he said that he would demand that the board either negotiate or resign.

At the news conference he ac-

MORE on page 12

OFFICIAL NOTICES

Correspondents columns will be found on pages 4 and 9 of this edition of the Labor Journal. Unions will find notices of important meetings called by their officers on page 10.

HOW TO BUY

Medical and food costs skyrocket

BY SIDNEY MARGOLIUS

Labor Consumer Adviser for Labor Journal

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Runaway medical costs and higher food prices are leading your living costs to new higher levels this Summer.

The overall Consumer Price Index in recent months has been rising at the rate of over 7 per cent a year. This is the fastest rate of increase in any comparable period since 1956, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports.

NO RELIEF from the now-galloping inflation appears in sight until late Fall when meat prices may ease. Meanwhile, the Dun & Bradstreet Wholesale Food Price Index has hit new 1969 highs for three weeks in a row—a sure omen of still-higher food prices this Summer.

Meat prices are a particular problem this Summer, with successive price increases of 5 to 10 cents a pound on many cuts of beef in effect recently.

Also critical is the accelerated rise in medical-care costs with further increases in sight. In some localities Blue Cross plans have announced plans to increase premiums as much as 50 per cent.

The national average cost of hospital care is now up to \$65 a day compared to \$58 last year. This is a rise of over 100 per cent in ten years. Within five years, hospital costs are expected to go up to a national average of \$100 a day.

MEDICAL COSTS have gone up more than any other item in the cost of living—about 53 per cent in approximately the past decade.

Since the advent of Medicare, the rise has accelerated. Medical costs have gone up 22 per cent in just three years, or about twice as fast as in the previous seven. So far this year medical costs are leaping up at the rate of 10 per cent a year.

Here are other trends affecting your living costs, and tips on buying opportunities:

THE INTEREST RATE HOLD-UP: This is the worst possible year to borrow money. With banks now charging interest of 8½ per cent per annum even for large business borrowers, mortgage rates are expected to rise even beyond the current 7½-8 per cent.

While the runaway interest rates are forcing you to pay higher property taxes, rents and mortgage costs, bank profits are running about 15 per cent ahead of last year. Even after this year's higher taxes.

JULY CLOTHING SALES: This is one of the best months for shopping for clothing, with most stores offering reductions on standard brands and quality. Most important are the July shoe sales. They give you a chance to save on this largest single item in your family's clothing budget.

Other useful sales this month

include reductions on men's and boys' durable-press shirts (polyester and cotton); men's suits; women's hosiery; women's and girls' durable-press dresses and blouses.

July also is the month you can find special prices and reductions on refrigerators and TV sets.

FOOD BUDGET: Remember a couple of years ago when we used to argue that you could still feed a family on a dollar a day a person? Those days are over. After recent price increases we figure that the U.S. Agriculture Department's moderate-cost food budget for a family with two school children under 13, now costs \$37.40 a week, or \$162 a month. That's about \$1.35 per person a day. The low-cost plan now comes to about \$29.40 a week (\$127.40 a month). That's \$1.05 a day. The "liberal" plan comes to \$1.65 a day.

The low cost budget relies more on inexpensive foods such as bread, cereals and potatoes, and calls for less meat. It allows for only 10½ pounds of meat, poultry and fish for a family of four, for all meals for a week. This is a pound and a half a day including breakfast and lunch meats—a very sparing allowance.

The moderate-cost plan allows for almost 17 pounds of meat, poultry and fish, or about 2½ pounds a day.

Taking a balance between the two plans, we would say you are doing well in this Summer of high food prices if you can feed a family on about \$1.25 a day. For children over 12, you would need to allow \$1.40 to \$1.60 a day.

For a family of three persons, you would have to add 5 per cent to these cost estimates. For a family of five, subtract 5 per cent. For 6 or more subtract 10 per cent.

One particular point to watch this Summer is spending for soft drinks, canned punches and ades, potato chips, crackers, cookies and other snacks. Prices of soft drinks have risen this year even though sugar, their main ingredient, has gone up very little.

FOOD BUYING CALENDAR: Both pork and beef are high this year. Among the better values are sales of beef chuck, and ready-to-eat hams and calis (pork shoulder). Broilers and turkeys are in abundant supply; are more reasonable than many of the ready meats, even though they cost more than last year. Of all the protein foods, fish currently offers outstanding value.

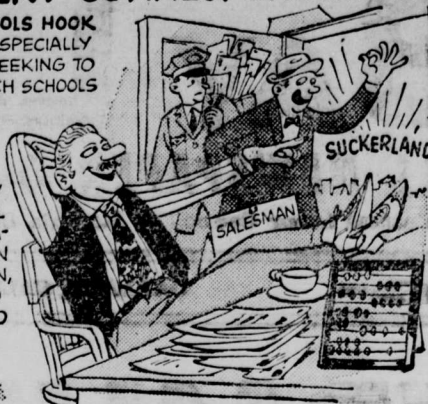
Why not pass this copy of the East Bay Labor Journal to a friend of yours when you are finished reading it!

YOUR MONEY'S WORTH

by Sidney Margolius

FRAUDULENT CORRESPONDENCE

AND TRADE SCHOOLS HOOK MANY WORKERS, ESPECIALLY LOW-INCOME ONES, SEEKING TO IMPROVE SKILLS. SUCH SCHOOLS HAVE BECOME ACTIVE RECENTLY IN HEAVY EQUIPMENT AND COMPUTER "TRAINING", ESPECIALLY BEWARE IF A SCHOOL WON'T GIVE INFORMATION BUT INSISTS ON SENDING A SALESMAN, AND IF HE TRIES TO PRESSURE YOU INTO SIGNING UP RIGHT AWAY.



CHECKING WITH BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU AND FOR V.A. CERTIFICATION IS SOME BUT NOT COMPLETE ASSURANCE. BETTER ALSO CHECK WITH LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR, LABOR UNIONS AND POTENTIAL EMPLOYERS IN THAT INDUSTRY TO SEE IF THE COURSE IS ANY GOOD.

GIVE YOUR DOLLAR MORE POWER



WHEN YOU SHOP FOR WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S APPAREL INSIST ON THE LABEL AT THE RIGHT. AT THE LEFT IS THE LABEL OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS.



Antiunion textile co. guilty for 7th time

For the seventh time the big textile firm of J. P. Stevens & Company has been found guilty of violating legal rights of employees to join their own union.

This time Robert E. Mullin, trial examiner of the National Labor Relations Board found that officials "at every level" of Stevens Gullistan plant at Statesboro, Ga., threatened and fired employees to keep out the Textile Workers Union of America.

J. P. Stevens & Company for the seventh time been found guilty of violating the legal rights of employees to join or form a union.

He recommended that Stevens be ordered to bargain with the union on the basis of cards signed by a majority of employees, and because management illegally smashed the union's majority causing it to lose an election.

The examiner ruled that Stevens must reinstate three fired union supporters with back pay, employ a woman whose job application was rejected because her brother and brother-in-law were union members and pay her for all lost time. The company also would be directed to:

- Mail a copy of the NLRB order to every plant employee.
- Post copies in conspicuous places for 60 consecutive days.
- Read the order to all employees during working time, by

departments and shifts, or let a board agent do so.

• Give the union and its representatives reasonable access to bulletin boards for a one-year period.

IWU President William Pollock said that Stevens has unsuccessfully fought every examiner's decision in the seven litigated cases, every NLRB order and every decision that has reached the courts. It has been compelled in addition to pay nearly \$1,000,000 to workers illegally fired.

In April, the NLRB asked that Stevens be cited for contempt of court for refusing to comply with two previous orders of a federal appeals court to stop interfering with employee rights at other plants.

Living memorial from insurance

Life insurance benefits of Emma Oliver, a member of Cooks 228, are being turned into living memorials by a sister.

Mrs. Marion Bergman, a Musicians Union member in New York City, contributed \$150 to Alameda County Committee on Political Education in memory of her sister, Emma Oliver.

Look for the union shop card, ask for a union clerk to serve you, and demand the union label!

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Getting Your MONEY'S WORTH

July 1 may stand out as one of the most important days of the year as far as the consumer is concerned.

That's the day the Truth-in-Lending Act goes into effect. While there are problems with it—and Consumer Reports points them out in its July issue—the consumer will certainly benefit from the new law that was so long in coming.

Among other things, Truth-in-Lending will do much to make "shopping for credit" a reality. The consumer will now find it far easier to decide whether to finance a purchase on the store's terms or to borrow elsewhere.

"UNTIL NOW," the magazine says, "the multiplicity of kinds and types of loans and installment terms offered to consumers—together with the various and usually misleading ways of stating loan costs—made it impossible for most people to learn with any precision the cost of borrowing."

The article points out that the state laws will continue to favor the lender and will continue to give the borrower little or no recourse except to pay, even if he has been cheated or browbeaten into the deal. It also notes that the law, in the case of revolving charge accounts, permits merchants who are so inclined to charge interest rates that will exceed the 18 per cent rate stated on the contract. And, it points out that Truth-in-Lending leaves open two dangerous opportunities for lenders to understate—perhaps grossly—the finance charge and the annual percentage rate in transactions: one deals with the purchase of a home and the other involves transactions in which one's home or property is used as security.

"TWO TERMS you must keep in mind with Truth-in-Lending," Consumer Reports says, "are the annual percentage rate and the finance charge. They tell you, at a glance, its relative cost in percentage terms and how much you are paying for credit."

"The annual percentage rate is the unit price of money, its true annual interest rate to the nearest one-quarter per cent. It stands out as the only reliable yardstick for measuring one creditor's lending charge against those of all others."

"The finance charge is expressed in dollars. It is the total number of dollars you pay to borrow money, whether directly or in the form of deferred payments on a purchase."

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EAST BAY LABOR JOURNAL

Owned and Published every Friday by Central Labor and Building and Construction Trades Councils of Alameda County

1622 E. 12th STREET, OAKLAND, CALIF. 94606

Job Printing . . . 261-3980
Business Office . . . 261-3981
Editor . . . 261-3982
Advertising . . . 261-3983
261-3984

Second-Class postage paid at Oakland, California. Subscription Rates — One year \$4.00; Single Copies 10 cents. Special Rates to Unions Subscribing in a body.

LABOR PAPER ADVISORY COMMITTEE—CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL—Vic Brandt, Richard K. Groulx, Charles F. Jones, Leslie Moore, Ed Morgan.

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BOOST THE LABEL!

BUY UNION LABEL PRODUCTS ONLY

When making purchases, always ask for the union label. If building a home or repairing one, see that the men doing the plumbing or steamfitting work, painting, etc., belong to the union. Ask to see their Card. Boost the union emblem and help yourself.

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Frank De Martini, longtime Teamster 70 official, dies

Frank A. De Martini, former secretary-treasurer of Teamsters 70 died last week of a long illness. He was 73.

De Martini retired in 1960 after 11 years as secretary-treasurer



FRANK A. De MARTINI

and 22 years as an officer of the local. He was a member for 41 years of the local, largest in the Teamsters west of Chicago.

De Martini was a former president of the Oakland Civil Service Board and former member of the executive committee of the Alameda County Central Labor Council.

Requiem High Mass was celebrated Monday and the rosary read Sunday night.

Republicans gain control over both Assembly, Senate

Republicans established a clear majority in both houses of the state legislature for the first time in 13 years by winning Assembly seat in a Monterey County special election last week.

Republican Robert G. Wood defeated former Democratic State Senator Fred Farr 26,274 to 19,651 for the Assembly seat vacated by the death of Republican Alan Pattee, killed in an auto accident.

The victory gave the Republicans a 41-39 majority in the Assembly. This established a 21-19 control of the Senate in earlier special elections this year.

Dominance of the legislature puts the Republicans in a strong position to control reapportionment of California's Congressional delegation and the legislature after the 1970 census.

New delegates seated

Virginia Rike of Communications Workers 9415 was seated as a delegate to the Alameda County Central Labor Council June 16.

NOTICE

ALL RETIRED MEMBERS OF EAST BAY AUTOMOTIVE MACHINISTS

LOCAL 1546, I. A. M. & A. W. OR OTHER RETIRED MACHINISTS IN THE EAST BAY

... There will be nomination for Officers for the East Bay Senior Citizens Club, No. 1389 (sponsored by Local 1546) at the next regular meeting at 1:00 P.M., Wednesday, July 9th, 1969 at the Hall of the East Bay Automotive Machinist 1546; 1026 Mac Arthur Boulevard, Oakland, California.

ELECTION WILL BE HELD AT 1:00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 1969 AT THE SAME PLACE.

Please attend,

Fraternally,

Ed. T. Merriitt, Sec. Protom.

Strikebreakers strike L.A. Herald Examiner

Strikebreakers have struck Hearst's scab Los Angeles Herald-Examiner.

An independent dealer and some of his route boys recently joined strike - lockout picket lines protesting they were getting a raw deal. Hearst negotiators have been insisting that all 250 district managers be replaced by independent dealers in any settlement of the lengthy strike-lockout.

COSMOPOLITAN, HARPER'S BAZAAR and GOOD HOUSEKEEPING are all Hearst magazines. Labor asks you not to buy any Hearst publication while the strike in Los Angeles continues.

Child labor laws ignored

A 14-year-old nurse's aide worked up to 12.5 hours a day in a nursing home.

Busboys 13 to 15 years old worked 58.5 hours a week.

A lumber company employed boys as young as 9 years old to do cleanup work in a mill.

A 15-year-old girl worked from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. as an assembler in a dry cleaning plant.

These are not selections from labor history in the 19th Century. They are documented as recent as a year ago from a study by the Wage & Hour and Public Contracts Divisions of the Labor Dept. They are violations of child labor regulations under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

The study reported that in 77,000 investigations during fiscal 1968 a total of 14,117 minors were found to be illegally employed. This however, marked an improvement from a year earlier when 60,000 investigations uncovered 18,536 abuses.

Some of the violations come under the 1936 amendments to the FLSA which extended coverages of industries where youths are often employed, such as restaurants, hotels, laundries and hospitals.

These same amendments provided the Secretary of Labor with authority to declare certain occupations hazardous to minors under 16.

Jazz group sought for teenagers at Labor Day picnic

A rock'n' roll band is being sought for the benefit of teenagers at the Alameda County Central Labor Council's annual Labor Day picnic at the Fairgrounds in Pleasanton September 1.

A special area for street type dancing, or just listening, will be set aside for the younger generation.

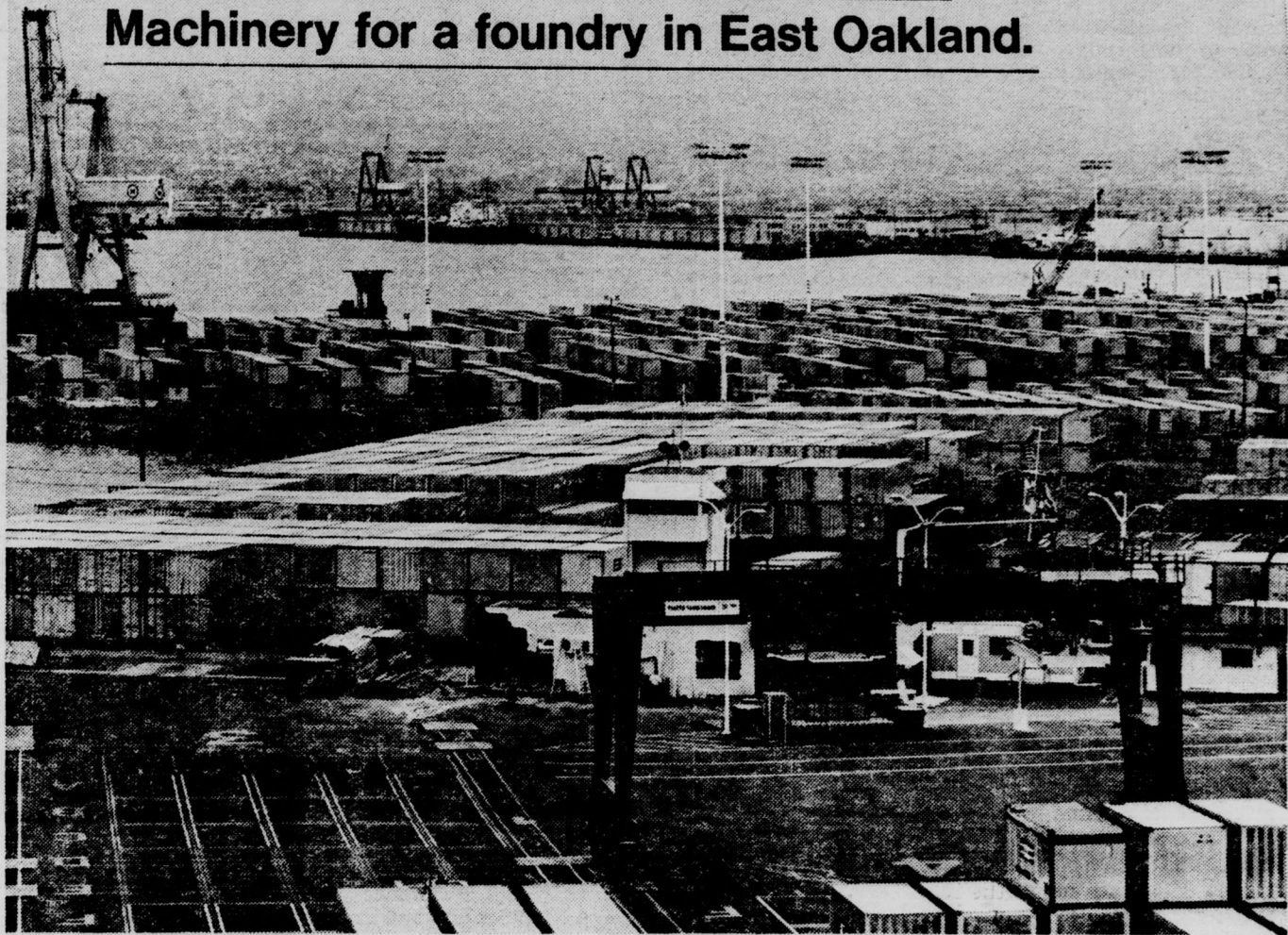
The rest of the picnickers will be entertained by Mike Tilles & His Barbary Coast Jazz Band.

What's in these containers?

Furniture for a family in Montclair.

Television sets for a store downtown.

Machinery for a foundry in East Oakland.



And an important boost for all of Oakland's economy.

This is containerized cargo — goods packed in sealed containers that can be moved on trucks, railroad cars, and in special container ships. Containerization is the most important development in maritime shipping since steam — and the Port of Oakland has become the second largest container cargo port in the world.

How does Oakland's leadership in containerization affect you? For one thing, most of the cargo in this photo would have been sent through other ports a year ago. The Port of Oakland's planning and development of modern container terminals will bring about a 50% increase in cargo tonnage, and will produce an estimated \$104,000,000 in

wages and benefits to the city. Oakland's container facilities have led a number of major firms to locate warehouses, distribution centers, and plants here, and have helped strengthen our local trucking industry. In short, the Port of Oakland's marine terminal developments have had a positive effect on the economy of the entire city, and are making Oakland a better place in which to live and work.

FREE FILM AVAILABLE — The Port of Oakland's 18-minute color film, "Gateway to the Pacific," is available for group showings. Write Association Films, Inc., 25358 Cypress Ave., Hayward, Calif. 94544 or phone 783-0100 for information.

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LABOR'S HIGHEST honor—the Murray-Green Award—is bestowed on former Senator Paul H. Douglas, Democrat of Illinois, during the 14th annual AFLCIO Community Services Conference. President Joseph A. Beirne, right, of the Communications Workers and chairman of the Community Services Committee, made the presentation.

Printing Specialties Union

BY FREDRICK T. SULLIVAN

The first annual golf tournament sponsored by District Council 5 was an outstanding success. It is amazing how many of our members enjoy the game of golf. When we put out the call for sign-ups we did not expect the response that we received. Forty-eight members signed up to play and it is felt that with more publicity more would have played. The tournament was held on Saturday, June 14 at the Lew Galbraith Municipal Golf Course in Oakland. An excellent committee composed of Tom Wilkins, Business Agent of D.C. 5, Dick Faubion of Owens Illinois Glass, Joe Cabral of Crown Zellerbach and Eric Whitehead of Radiant Color ran the show.

A great help to the committee were Loran Wenje and Richard Easter of Eastman Tag. Business Agent Ray Geiger was on the job with the union's camera taking pictures of all of the golfers to submit to News and Views.

Four of the golfers ended with the tie of 75. They flipped a coin and Herb Reyes came in first, Vic Sabel second, and Ed Vierra third. Herb Johnson who is a better golfer than a coin flipper was given a half a dozen golf balls. All who participated

had a good time and are awaiting to make the Second Annual Golf Tournament bigger and better.

While the above Tournament was going on, Dick Clark, Steve Bailey, John Ferro, Ed Monk and myself were picketing Safeway stores in support of the Farm Workers. This is a struggle that I wish more of our members would take an interest in, as this is a real frontier of the labor movement. We can take up collections and donate paper for their publications, but that will not do the job that feet walking a picket line can do for their cause.

The next time that you use our Health Plan or are on a well earned vacation, remember that the farm worker does not have these benefits and is not even covered by unemployment insurance to assist him when he is between jobs. He must go on welfare to support his family and the industry where he works escapes the responsibility of maintaining him when they do not need his services in the fields.

Job agencies

Recent surveys indicate 8 percent of American workers get their jobs through employment agencies—at the price of several weeks salary.

Tell 'em you saw it in the East Bay Labor Journal!

Chips and Chatter

BY GUNNAR (BENNY) BENONYS

For all practical purposes, there is a very small out-of-work list as far as carpenters are concerned. We have been hard pressed to fill the job calls as they roll in. Let's hope this continues for same time, reports Al Thoman.

Brother E. H. Rychlinsky, in Lake County sent word he is going to retire. Paul Wallace is mending a broken leg. Apprentice Bob Wise suffered a fractured skull and broken hip in an auto accident at Redding. George Bekker suffered another heart attack, is in Oakland hospital, room 506. Glen Stiles, home from 42 days in the hospital as a result of a broken pelvis, wants visitors at 1211 Paru St., Alameda. Apprentice Joseph M. Gardner Jr., died of injuries in a fall off a third story job, Friday. Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family.

A land-mark decision by Superior Court Judge Hugo Fisher, San Diego, may have paved the way for clarification of the right to strike by public employees. If this decision is allowed to stand, subject to possible appeal, it will clearly lead to more meaningful negotiations between public employee unions and government agencies. Instead of "collective begging," they will then enter into bonafide "collective bargaining" sessions on behalf of their members! This historic court decision, won by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Union is expected to end years of frustration and despair in organizing other public employees in California and the other states.

Carpenter Pete, a disillusioned Swede, put the following ad in the paper: "I am no longer responsible for my wife's debts. She has left my bed and smorgasbord."

In addition to the many man-hours of work provided by the construction of the Rapid Transit system by BART in the communities of the East Bay and San Francisco, it is estimated that (in addition to the basic 1.3 billion to be spent on BART's construction) over an additional billion dollars will be spent on the construction of commercial buildings such as stores, apartments, high rise office buildings, parking facilities, etc. in and near the various stations of the system. Already over 850 millions of dollars of these structures are underway in various communities, with many more still on the drawing boards.

Li'l GeeGee, the office vamp, quips that the difference between a bachelor girl and an old maid is nobody's business.

In Oregon, the people, led by

the Labor Federation, ILWU, State Grange, members and other interested groups, by means of a statewide referendum defeated, by an 8 to 1 margin, the proposed state sales tax!

Uncle Benny comments, you know you've reached middle age when you smile at a lovely girl and she thinks you are one of her father's friends.

Retired members will receive an approximate five per cent increase on their pension checks as of September 1, 1969! Maximum pensions for those who apply on and after September 1, 1939, and have 30 years of coverage will be eligible for up to \$270 per month pension. Final announcements on these and other changes and improvements will come from Al Figone, District Council Executive Secretary as soon as available and will be passed on to you.

See you at the next meeting, Brother?

Watchmakers Local 101

BY GEORGE F. ALLEN

Over the past years we have had the sad duty to report to the members many unfortunate incidents that occurred to our members and/or their families. This week, we are endeavoring to find the words to tell our members of the great tragedy that befell Brother Salvador Martinez, employee of Kessinger Jewelers in Redwood City.

He and his family went to a picnic in Danville on Sunday, June 15. It was to be a double celebration — Father's Day and the 40th birthday for Brother Martinez. What started out as a happy occasion, ended in a nightmare of horror, which left all of us stunned.

Before the day had ended, three of Brother Salvador's girls had drowned—the oldest being 16 years of age. A relative of the family also drowned. A lady living in the area rescued one child and in a heroic attempt to save another child, lost her own life by drowning.

A boating for "Celebrating the Day" ended with the loss of five precious lives.

We have no words to end this column—it is one that nobody could ever find words for.

Death takes Carl Oliver

Carl Oliver, member of the Executive Board of AFSCME 371, died last week. He had been employed for 10 years at the University of California and worked in Wurster Hall.

Oliver lived at 5637 Ludwig Avenue, El Cerrito. Funeral services were Friday, June 20, at Down's Memorial Methodist Church at 61st and Idaho, Oakland.

Carpenters Credit Union

BY PAUL HUDGINS

This Credit Union is a California corporation and a financial cooperative for the benefit of Union Carpenters and their families.

The members own the Credit Union. You become a member-owner by pay a \$1 entrance fee, and investing \$5 or more in shares.

It's easy to get a quick loan in emergency if you have been saving any amount regularly, a little out of each full pay-check. It's easy to join by mail, save by mail, and borrow by mail.

You know you should save something regularly. There will always be rainy days ahead. Other emergencies occur, also. You can be prepared for every need by just saving steadily at your own Credit Union.

Join now and then set yourself a program of consistent savings. A part of every pay-check should belong to you. Only the part you save is really yours.

The only money a Credit Union has to lend is the savings of the members. Therefore we do have to give preference to those who have been saving regularly. They are the ones who provided funds for all previous loans to other members.

Put yourself in that preferred position by steady savings. When you start saving regularly you begin to be successful.

Millmen's 550

BY ARSIE BIGBY

The following were elected to serve this Union as Officers and Committeemen for the ensuing two years: President C. Bohner; Vice President Pete Roe; Rec. Sec. Jack Archibald; Fin. Sec. George H. Johnson; Treas. E. F. Coelho; Conductor Francis Prodos; Warden Byron Reed; Trustees G. E. White, B. Jadeson and V. N. Anderson; Bus. Rep. Arsie Bigby; Bay Counties District Council of Carpenters, Geo. H. Johnson, Arsie Bigby, E. F. Coelho, V. L. Darling, G. E. White, V. N. Anderson, C. M. Smith, C. Bohner, P. F. Roe and R. A. Clark; Alameda Bldg. & Const. Trades Council, E. F. Coelho, Arsie Bigby, Jack Archibald and G. E. White; State Mill Committee: Arsie Bigby, Geo. H. Johnson, E. F. Coelho, V. L. Darling and Jack Archibald; Six County Negotiating Committee: Arsie Bigby, Geo. H. Johnson, E. F. Coelho, V. L. Darling and R. A. Clark.

Effective immediately, in accordance with the motion passed at our membership meeting of June 20, 1969, there will be NO more cash accepted in this office. Members paying dues in the office or by mail will have to pay either by Personal Check or by Money Order. This will apply to all members paying dues to this Local Union.

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Richmond: 1100 Macdonald Avenue Phone BEacon 4-2844

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Samson of labor, man of his time

John Lewellyn Lewis was a grammar school dropout who changed the shape of organized labor and wound up with degrees of Doctor of Laws and Doctor of Humane Letters from two American universities.

He led the coal miners through 10 years in which disastrous strikes were forced on his United Mine Workers Union and the union faded away. But the union survived and Lewis emerged as a towering and successful giant of the labor movement. Lewis knuckled under to President Wilson, openly challenged Presidents Roosevelt and Truman, and came away with the President's Medal of Freedom from President Johnson.

Trained in the methods of old line craft unionism as a protege of Samuel Gompers, he became the sparkplug of industrial unionization of 4,000,000 workers in the then open shop steel, auto, rubber, electrical manufacturing, textile, chemical, and oil industries—to name the major ones.

Lewis found that his United Mine Workers could not prosper in the face of low wages in such related industries as steel and thus the drive for industrial unionism was born.

Lewis' development was slow. He learned the hard way—by experience.

As he once said, "It takes every man some time to find himself. . . . It took me longer than most."

The story of this learning process was not told in the obituaries of Lewis' death June 11 at the age of 89. Yet knowledge of the battering that he and his miners took while he was learning is essential to understanding Lewis' zeal for industrial unionization and his pioneering on health and welfare, safety and pensions.

Let's take a quick look at how and what this self-styled Samson of Labor learned during his black years.

He knew the mines from childhood. "A mortician's paradise," he called them.

Lewis was born Feb. 12, 1880 in Lucas,

Iowa, the son of a Welsh coal miner who was blacklisted for strike activity but later able to return to the mines before he died of silicosis.

In his early 20s (1901-1906) he worked in copper, silver and gold mines in the West. During this period he helped dig for the bodies of 400 miners crushed in an explosion at Hannah, Wyoming, an experience that inspired his passion for mine safety legislation.

Back in Lucas, in 1907 he married Myrta Edith Bell, a school teacher, who polished off his thunderous rhetoric.

Lewis was a big bruiser of a man with a command of language few statesmen could equal. He was as apt with quotations from the Bible or Shakespeare as with his own colorful and telling barbs.

Lewis' union career started in earnest in 1909 when he became president of the UMW local at Panama, Ill. His dramatic presentation of the horrors of a mine explosion won safety measures from the state legislature.

He moved up to legislative agent for the UMW and then legislative and field representative for the AFL until 1917 when he became a UMW vice president.

As acting president in 1919 he was shoved into his first strike—and disaster. The UMW convention demanded a 60 per cent pay raise, a 6-hour day and a 5-day week, and 411,000 bituminous coal miners struck.

President Wilson invoked a wartime no strike provision and courts enjoined the strike. Lewis called it off, saying "We cannot fight the government."

An arbitration award gave the miners a 25 per cent pay increase. But Lewis was in trouble with his union for calling off the strike under government pressure.

Nevertheless Lewis was elected president of the United Mine Workers in 1920 and began his 40 year administration under attack from within and without the UMW. Things rapidly got worse.

Company terrorism, court injunctions, government cooperation with non-union mine owners eroded the union and its jurisdiction. Lewis conducted strikes in 1922, 1924 and 1927, all with the battle cry of "No backward step" but all unsuccessful.

Mines in Alabama, West Virginia, Colorado, Utah, Texas, Maryland, Virginia, and parts of other states were lost to UMW.

Mechanization squeezed out 200,000 miners. Union miners got \$7.50 a day but averaged only 171 work days a year. Open shop mines offered relatively steady work—at \$3 a day.

Typical of court injunctions: A Pennsylvania judge banned even singing within a quarter of a mile of a struck mine in which he had a \$6,000 interest. Another Pennsylvania judge ruled pickets must be English speaking American citizens. Another forbade meetings of a UMW women's auxiliary.

A rival National Miners Union, formed in 1927, said "Lewis must go."

The UMW dwindled from more than 400,000 members in the early 20s to 150,000 in 1932.

So what did Lewis learn from this dismal experience? His answer:

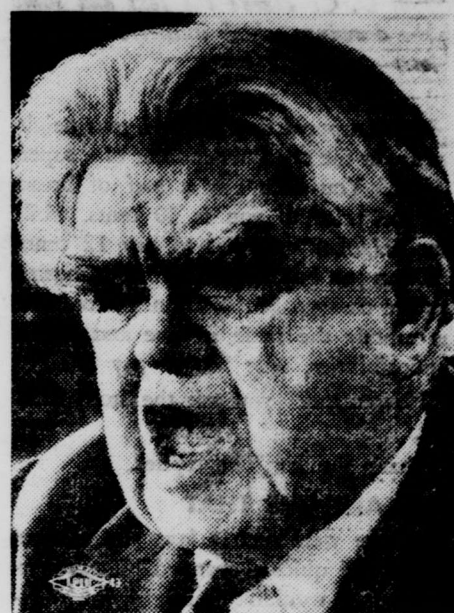
"As long as the great mass of workers is unorganized, so long would it be impossible for organized labor to achieve its legitimate goals."

"Every year when we sat down to negotiate with the coal operators they would deny my people a raise in wages and attempt to justify their unreasonable position by citing the lower wage of the unorganized steel workers."

"The low pay of the steel workers was a drag on the wage scale of the United Mine Workers. It became increasingly clear that the mine workers could never really win a just wage until the steel workers were organized and their miserable wages raised to a human, decent standard."

ORGANIZE

This, he said, was an economic fact



LEWIS in 1959

applicable to all unions. Hence, "Organize the unorganized."

From his own disastrous experience Lewis decided federal legislation was necessary to do the job.

So he broke with Gompers tradition and in 1932 proposed to the U.S. Senate Finance Committee a program somewhat along the line of the National Recovery Act and specifically what became Section 7A, the Magna Carta of American Labor. Lewis called 7A his "secret weapon."

They didn't pay much attention but under Roosevelt the NRA, including Section 7A, became law June 16, 1933. Section 7A was the first federal guarantee of the right to organize.

Lewis immediately threw the entire UMW treasury into an organizing campaign and sent organizers out shouting, "The President wants you to join the Union."

Membership in the United Mine Workers zoomed back to more than 400,000. On September 21, 1933 Lewis signed the first Appalachian agreement, a triumph that unionized even the diehard Southern operators.

This was in the midst of the depression and millions working on subsistence wages were ready for unionization.

Lewis urged the 1935 AFL convention at Atlantic City to "adopt a policy designed to meet modern requirements under modern conditions in this industrial nation."

continued on page 8



TEAR GAS, clubs and rifles were familiar police weapons on the picket lines that often bloodied the growing path of industrial unionism across the nation in the 30s and 40s. This scene was in Los Angeles. Gas masked police at the extreme left fired tear gas on CIO picket lines at United

States Motors. The gas broke up the picket line. Many pickets were arrested. Peaceful pickets were killed from coast to coast in similar, but more violent, police action invariably heralded as a move to "restore law and order."

Labor fights for justice to ease U.S. tax problem

(In its full-scale drive to end tax loopholes, which penalize working people and benefit the rich, the AFLCIO has issued "We Want Tax Justice!", a pamphlet which lays out the issues clearly. It's available from the AFLCIO Department of Publications, 815 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. Here's the text and some of the drawings which illustrate the pamphlet:)

Let us suppose that you and your neighbor are at the checkout counter of a supermarket. You each buy a loaf of bread. But the price to you is 30 cents, while your neighbor only has to pay 12 cents.

When you buy shoes for your youngster, you are charged \$8. Your neighbor, who has exactly the same income and family responsibilities, only has to pay \$3.

"How come?" you ask the store manager.

"That's the law," he replies.

THEY ARE LIKE THAT

If there were such a law, you can bet it would be quickly changed. The American people wouldn't stand for such unfairness.

Yet, there are injustices just as glaring in our nation's income tax laws. Take this example:

A married worker whose sole income is \$8,000 a year in wages and has a standard tax deduction will pay \$1,000 in federal income tax.

But a married investor whose sole income in a year is an \$8,000 profit from selling a stock or property at more than he paid for it will have to pay only \$354 in federal income tax.



He pays less because the tax rate on "capital gains" is much less than the tax rate on earned income.

That's just one of many tax loopholes the AFLCIO wants Congress to close.

Tax reform is a dollar and cents, bread and butter issue to every American family.

These tax loopholes, intended to benefit the rich, take money out of your paycheck.

If a store had to sell its shoes at less than cost to some customers, it would have to charge other customers more money to make up for the loss.

The same is true with taxes.

GLARING LOOPHOLES

AFLCIO economists figured out how much some of the most glaring tax loopholes were costing the federal government.

The answer was about \$16,000,000,000 a year.

Just the one loophole we illustrated—the capital gains tax—means a loss of more than \$6,000,000,000 a year in tax revenue.

Who benefits?

Well, one-third of all capital gains re-

ported on tax returns went to persons with incomes over \$100,000 a year.

Who loses?

Obviously, people whose income comes from wages and salaries. They have to pay more in taxes because the money is needed to run the government, defend the nation and carry out programs to help all the people.

If tax loopholes were closed, part of the added revenue could be used to make taxes fairer for everyone. And there would be enough left over to finance government programs that are so urgently needed.

MORE LOOPHOLES

Let's take a look at a few more of these tax loopholes.

Did you know that the government in effect pays 7 per cent of the cost of the new equipment of machines for a corporation? And that's in addition to the normal tax deduction allowed for business expenses and interest charges.

It's called an investment tax credit and it costs the federal treasury \$3,000,000,000 a year.

Just now, the government is trying to do everything it can to cool off the economy and curb inflation. It just doesn't make sense to continue the 7 per cent investment tax credit which heats up the only source of inflationary demand in the economy.

Incidentally, if you buy a new washing machine for your home, you can't subtract 7 per cent of the cost from your tax bill.

But that's because you're not a corporation.

If you're not a wealthy investor, chances

are that terms such as oil depletion allowance and accelerated depreciation on real estate don't mean anything to you.

But they mean that the federal government loses more than \$2,000,000,000 in tax revenues each year because of those loopholes. And whose taxes do you think make up for this loss?

The Wall Street Journal gave these examples of how some people with big incomes escape taxes:

- An investor reported an income of more than \$1,400,000. But by taking advantage of both the real estate depreciation loophole and the capital gains loophole, he paid no tax at all.

- Another investor, whose money came from oil, took in more than \$1,000,000—and paid only \$397 in taxes.

MILLIONAIRES FREE

According to the U.S. Treasury's latest report:

Twenty-one millionaires and another 134 Americans with incomes over \$200,000 paid not a penny in federal income taxes.

One way to avoid paying any federal

taxes is to invest your money in state and local bonds. The interest is tax-exempt.

This provision does help cities and states sell their bonds on more favorable terms. But the federal government could subsidize one-third of the interest cost for such bonds and still come out \$100,000,000 a year ahead if this tax loophole were closed. That's one of the reforms the AFLCIO has urged.

There are other escape hatches by which the wealthy legally evade taxes. Big corporations can spin off smaller subsidiaries for tax gains. Wealthy people find it mighty profitable to lose money on a part-time farm, even if you don't actually lose anything. Charity begins at home, if you have a good tax lawyer.

HELP POSSIBLE

Just using part of the added revenue from closing these loopholes—\$6,700,000,000 out of the estimated \$16,000,000,000

tax code is devoted to exemptions for special interest groups.

These special interest lobbyists today are doing everything they can to block meaningful tax reform. The transcript of congressional hearings is filled with their testimony urging that the loopholes the AFLCIO is trying to close be continued, even expanded.

It will take a mighty outpouring of public indignation to counteract their influence.

America's workers pay their taxes through the payroll deduction system. Every time our unions negotiate a pay raise, the federal government gets its share.

That's OK with us. We know taxes are necessary.

What's not OK is that we're paying more than our fair share because some taxpayers pay less than their share.

The AFLCIO and the union you belong



—Congress could enact these tax reductions urged by the AFLCIO.

1. Raise the minimum standard deduction from the present \$200 plus \$100 for each exemption to \$600 plus \$100 per exemption.

This would exempt from federal income tax most people earning below the poverty level and reduce the tax on all low income families.

2. Increase the standard deduction from the present 10 per cent with a \$1,000 maximum to 15 per cent and a \$2,500 maximum.

This would bring standard deductions closer to the actual deductions of most taxpayers. It would enable most people to use the simple short form tax return and would result in lower taxes for millions of people in the \$5,000 to \$20,000 income range.

3. Reduce the rate on the first two income tax brackets from the current 14 per cent and 15 per cent to 9 per cent and 13 per cent.

This proposal would provide \$3.4 billion in tax relief to all taxpayers, but about 95 per cent of the saving would go to those with incomes below \$20,000.

TAX JUSTICE

These are the AFLCIO's proposals for tax justice.

They make sense.

The graduated income tax is the fairest system of taxation ever devised anywhere in the world.

It is based on ability to pay, with the tax rate rising progressively as income goes up.

That's the system the United States started out with more than half a century ago.

But the tax structure has been badly rigged as, over the years, influential business groups managed to get special privileges written into the law. Today about nine-tenths of the voluminous, complicated

to have urged Congress to make the tax changes outlined in this pamphlet. We want real tax justice.

YOU CAN HELP

You can help by letting Congress know that millions of trade union families feel strongly that all income should be taxed fairly and equitably.

Let your congressman and senators know that you want the 7 per cent investment tax credit repealed and the other tax loopholes closed.

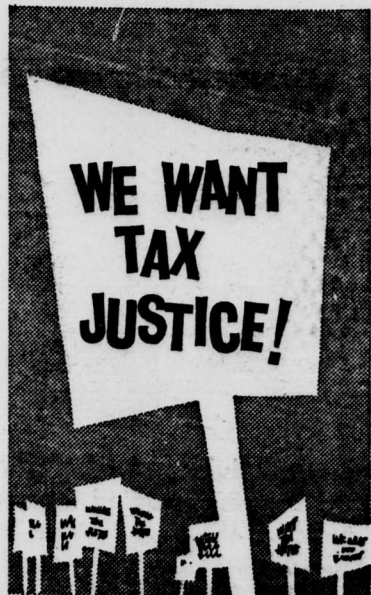
Tell them that you support the AFLCIO program for tax reform and tax justice.

It takes three letters to make your voice heard loud and clear.

One should be sent to your congressman. His address is U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D. C. 20515.

The other two should go to California's two senators. Write to both of them, U.S. Senate, Washington, D. C. 20510.

The postage may be the best investment you ever made even if it isn't tax deductible. If you were a corporation you could deduct the postage.



Hunger in a land of plenty

California is the greatest agricultural producer in the nation. Federal warehouses in the state bulge with surplus farm products.

Yet hunger is widespread among its poor—in city ghettos and rich farmlands. Many get so little to eat doctors say they may suffer irreparable brain damage.

California has more hungry children in its schools than any other state.

It's so bad that "The primary problem in California is inadequate food, not inadequate education," in the words of Robert L. Gnaizda, deputy director of California Rural Legal Assistance.

WHY?

How can this happen in such a wealthy, food-rich state in a time of unparalleled prosperity?

Two dozen experts had the answers for a U.S. Senate Select Committee on Nutrition & Human Needs at a recent hearing in San Francisco. They blamed:

- "Nightmares of bureaucracy" in federal food programs.
- Indifference of the State of California.
- Public indifference.
- Open defiance by the Secretary of Agriculture of a court order to feed the hungry.

Local fears that better fed poor would seek a higher minimum wage.

- Pride of the poor.

The Reagan administration was invited to be represented but sent no one to defend it against charges that its bureaucracy shared the blame for what two Republican committee members called a "sticky mess."

Major target of witnesses was the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The department pays farmers \$3,000,000,000 a year not to produce food. But it is defying a federal court order to implement food programs in California counties which refused to help the hungry.

The department administers the federal



GAUNT FACE of this woman mirrors years of hunger as she stands in the doorway of her tarpaper shack, her temporary home in prosperous California.



MAKESHIFT shacks like these are typical of housing supplied farm workers in Californians' migrant labor camp. This desolate picture was taken in Fresno

County, wealthiest agricultural county in the nation. Food for the families who live here is no better than the housing.

food programs. There are three of them, all heavily wrapped in red tape.

Last December 30, the U.S. District Court in San Francisco ordered the Secretary of Agriculture to institute a federal food program immediately in 16 California counties that had refused to provide funds for local administration.

The order was won by California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA), which argued Americans have a constitutional right not to go hungry.

DEFIES COURT

The secretary refused to comply although conceding there was a "substantial amount of hunger" in the counties, with victims including young children who could suffer "irreparable harm," that there was plenty of surplus food in federal warehouses in California and he could feed them all "if he wished."

Contempt proceedings were filed by CRLA against the secretary last month. They are still pending.

"While people went hungry, bags of rice actually rotted in the federal San Leandro surplus warehouse—rice which was meant to feed hungry people," Charles O'Brien, chief deputy attorney general of California, told the U.S. Senate committee.

"If college students ignored such an order, they'd be in jail by now."

By mid-May the holdout counties had dwindled to two—Butte and Sierra. In each case three of the five county supervisors opposed voting money to help feed the poor.

\$1.65 AN HOUR

More recently Butte supervisors rejected an aid program for Spanish-speaking poor for fear they "would work for a higher minimum farm wage than the present \$1.65 per hour," the Senators were told by Chairman Wayne E. Williams of the Butte County Economic Opportunity Council.

Sierra County, where the federal government owns two-thirds of the land, held out because of an inadequate tax base.

In San Benito County, one of the original reluctant counties, farm worker Alejo Hernandez was brutally beaten by a farmer "because of his efforts to get the food program," community worker Antonio Del Buono told the Senate committee.

Hernandez was the plaintiff in the CRLA suit against the Secretary of Agriculture.

O'Brien suggested the Department of Agriculture was defying the court order because of a similar "lawsuit pending in some 20 other states."

Gnaizda called the senators' attention to the paradox that while poor California children had only water to drink the "San Leandro warehouse bulges with 500,000 cans of surplus and unused milk."

"The Secretary of Agriculture is ship-

ping surplus milk from Los Angeles to Guam, almost 5,000 miles away," he said.

"The federal government is giving higher priority to feeding animals" and seems to be taking the attitude that poor children are expendable," said Dr. Bruce Jessup, pediatrician of the East Palo Alto Neighborhood Health Center.

In a sweeping criticism of the Agriculture Department's farm oriented attitude, O'Brien said:

"Surplus food, acquired at the taxpayers expense, does not reach hungry bellies because of federal bureaucratic red tape."

HELP FARMERS

Department attorneys insist the primary purpose of the food programs is to help farmers get rid of their surplus, not to aid the poor.

The three programs are:

1. School lunches. Gnaizda calls it "a fraud on the poor" because 80 per cent of the \$645,000,000 appropriated for the program is used to reduce lunch prices, "subsidizing the rich and the middle-class" while the impoverished go hungry because they have no money.

2. Food stamps. About 2,700,000 American poor use this program, buying for \$1 stamps with which they can purchase \$1.40 worth of food at the grocery store.

This is the program that 16 California counties were reluctant to institute, because it would cost them money.

3. Free food distribution from federal surplus warehouses. About 3,000,000 poor get this help. This is the aid the Secretary of Agriculture was ordered to supply and didn't.

FREE FOOD

As an example of the sort of food poor people get under this program, CRLA cited in its contempt petition the April allotment to needy in Santa Cruz County.

Each person received for the month two pounds of pork, one pound of chopped canned meat, one pound of peanut butter, one pound of processed cheese, one quart of evaporated milk, four and one-half pounds of dried milk plus bulgar, egg mix, lard, rolled oats and dried pinto beans.

All witnesses who mentioned the free food distribution agreed it was a last resort, that recipients were no more anxious to get it than the Agriculture Department was to distribute it.

Republican senators on the committee—Jacob Javits of New York and Robert Dole of Kansas—put the finger on the state administration for sufferings of California's poor.

"Hunger and malnutrition in the greatest agricultural producing state is an amazing paradox," Javits said. California law, he added, limits welfare payments to "less than what any family can live on."

"It's the fault of all of us," Dole said. "Witnesses in Los Angeles said it was bureaucracy in the state that was responsible."

"County welfare budgets are set below subsistence standards," said Dr. Paul O'Rourke, director of the East Palo Alto Neighborhood Health Center.

Drs. O'Rourke and Jessup, from that center almost across the street from the Stanford Food Research Institute, said food was usually the first prescription for poor families suffering from illness. Larders were normally empty.

"They are too proud to ask for food," said Dr. Jessup, who called "the degree of hunger a devastating paradox."

Dale O'Donnell, food stamp supervisor in Santa Clara County, said pride was a factor in "less than 20 per cent" participation in food stamp programs by eligible households.

"Many," he added, "cannot afford it because the amount they are required to commit is so large a fraction of their monthly resources."

continued on page 8



THREE YOUNGSTERS and their mother are victims of poverty and hunger in California.

Truth comes to lending

Americans owe \$111,569,000,000 in consumer credit. But few of these borrowers actually know how much they are paying for this record amount of credit.

All this will change, theoretically at least, on July 1. That is when the federal Truth in Lending Law will become effective.

After that date, sellers must tell buyers exactly what they are paying in interest—and added charges. That is, they will have to tell them in most cases. There are exceptions, some tricky.

None is quite as tricky as the way interest is stated on much of that \$111,569,000,000 consumers had borrowed as of the end of February.

Some consumers will be in for a shock. They will find that they are paying from 9 to 36 per cent interest instead of 6 to 15 as they thought.

They will learn that 1½ per cent a month at one national store chain means 36 per cent a year while 1½ per cent at another means 18 per cent.

(In contrast, they'll find that credit unions charge no more than 12 per cent a year.)

They will learn that what a bank has been calling 6 per cent may really be 11 per cent or 11½ per cent.

All of this is assuming that everyone follows the Truth in Lending Law, enacted by Congress a year ago.

Enforcement is another question. This is assigned to nine different federal agencies, primarily the Federal Trade Commission.

But they need money to do the job, and neither Congress nor the Nixon administration has been enthusiastic about finding money for the protection of consumers.

Enforcement aside, here is what the law says sellers must do:

All consumer credit contracts up to

\$25,000 must specify the true annual interest rate. This also applies to home mortgages regardless of size. The figure in both cases must also reflect extra charges such as insurance—life, health or accident—to cover the balance due.

However, it will not apply to credit under \$75 if the finance charge is not more than \$5, nor to credit over \$75 if the financing doesn't exceed \$7.50, nor to monthly charge accounts if the charge doesn't exceed 50 cents.

All installment contracts must specify the total amount in dollars of purchase price, finance charges, down payment, the amount being financed, size of payments, the number of installments and due dates.

'NOMINAL RATE'

Revolving credit accounts and monthly charge accounts must state the "nominal annual percentage rate." This is 12 times the monthly rate.

Most stores charge 1½ per cent a month on revolving accounts. Under Truth in Lending they must tell the buyer that they are charging 18 per cent a year interest.

Many stores conceal other charges. They use a variety of methods.

For example, one store chain charges monthly interest of 1½ per cent on the whole price of a purchase, before deducting down payment, monthly payments or credit for returned merchandise. In contrast, another charges 1½ per cent on the unpaid balance.

It works like this: Suppose you make a \$200 purchase at each store and in each case pay \$100 down. One would charge you interest on \$200. That is \$3 and is at an annual rate of 36 per cent. The other would charge interest on \$100, or \$1.50, which is at an annual rate of 18 per cent.

Banks would have to be more honest in telling what interest they charge.



THE MEN who drove the transcontinental rails to a meeting at Promontory Point, Utah, a century ago were mainly immigrant Irish, earning \$3 a day and immigrant Chinese who had to be satisfied with \$30 a month. Straw bosses like "General" Jack Casement, shown beside a work train with his whip, drove the men. A sidelight to this month's 100th anniversary of completion of the cross-continent railway is the fact that workmen, with no union to protect them, threatened a strike over \$500,000 unpaid wages and held Union Pacific Vice President T. C. Durant for ransom, delaying the "Golden Spike" ceremony for two days until it finally was held May 10, 1869.

Take two cases of "6 per cent" loans:

1. A bank which makes a \$1,000 loan for one year at what it calls 6 per cent, to be repaid in 12 monthly installments for a total of \$1,060, would have to tell the borrower that he is paying 11 per cent annual interest.

2. Another bank takes 6 per cent off the top of the \$1,000 loan—"discounting," it's called—so that the borrower receives \$940 instead of \$1,000, which amounts to 11½ per cent interest. The bank would have to tell the borrower the truth.

Mortgage interest will also include any "points," discount or other one time charge, heretofore excluded.

However, mortgage lenders will not have to disclose the dollar amount of the total finance charge. This would show the home buyer he was paying nearly twice as much under a 30-year mortgage as under a 20-year mortgage. No lender, of course, would want to tell the borrower something like that.

The new law also bans bait advertising

that falsely promises low installments or low down payments. This is the kind of ad that says "only \$5 down and \$5 a month."

After July 1 such ads will also have to say for how many months.

And it gives a person three business days to cancel, without penalty, a home improvement contract or a retail installment plan involving a lien on residential property. Down payments must be refunded. Merchandise, if any, must be picked up within 10 days.

Consumer minded organizations like the AFLCIO fought for eight years to get Congress to give the consumer this basic protection and elementary knowledge of what he is paying for credit.

A BILLION

The consumer will be able to shop intelligently for money. And a mighty lot of cash is involved.

A reduction of only 1 per cent on what the American public is paying in interest on consumer credit amounts to \$1,115,690,000 a year.

There is a 6 per cent difference between the normal revolving credit account charge and the cost of borrowing from your credit union and paying cash. The difference between credit union and Sears charges is 18 per cent.

How many billions of dollars consumers throw away to the financiers in this fashion nobody knows. But after July 1, the consumer need not be taken in. He should know what he is doing.

The law does not set any ceiling on interest rates or finance charges. Nor do the regulations.

The regulations were worked out by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

COVER EVERYBODY

They apply to every organization or individual that arranges for or extends consumer credit.

The regulations include tables for determining the true annual rate according to the type of credit—whether open end credit such as credit cards or single transactions such as bank loans.

They are geared to show the true interest rate to the nearest ¼ of 1 per cent. These tables are for use of the seller.

If the seller or lender deliberately violates the law, he may be jailed for one year and fined \$5,000. And the defrauded consumer can sue for double civil penalties.

There are just two things wrong with this. (1) The nine different federal agencies entrusted with enforcement suffer from a shortage of funds to do the job.

(2) Self enforcement of law has a poor record in the credit field.

Timely Samson of labor

continued from page 5

"The Labor movement is organized upon a principle that the strong shall help the weak," Lewis reasoned.

Isn't it right that we should contribute something of our own strength, our own virtues, our own knowledge, our own influence toward those less fortunately situated, in the knowledge that if we help them and they grow strong, in turn that we will be the beneficiary of their changed status and their strength?

"The strength of a strong man is a prideful thing, but the unfortunate thing in life is that strong men do not remain strong. And that is just as true of unions and labor organizations as it is true of men."

When reason failed to persuade delegates the crafts should give up their jurisdiction to organize mass production industries, Lewis proclaimed the AFL had "a record of 25 years of constant unbroken failure."

William (Big Bill) Huteson, president of the Carpenters and champion of the status quo, called Lewis a "big bastard."

Lewis hit Huteson in the face in the most publicized blow in labor history.

Some felt that the mighty Lewis' blow was a deliberate move to dramatize and attract attention to his industrial unionism campaign. Certainly no one ever doubted

that the picturesque Lewis knew the value of publicity.

But Huteson had the votes at the convention.

Within two weeks Lewis and presidents of seven other international unions formed the Committee for Industrial Organization—the CIO—and poured organizers into nonunion industries.

YOYO RIDE

The AFL kicked out the CIO unions, starting Lewis and his Mine Workers on a yoyo ride in and out of the AFL and CIO.

Workers clamoring to be organized chose many of the CIO battlegrounds. Rubber Workers closed down Goodyear, the world's largest rubber factory, and won a CIO agreement in 1936. Sitdown strikes and 42 days won CIO recognition in 1937 in General Motors.

Bloody clashes marked the spread of the CIO through open shop industry. The worst was the 1937 "Memorial Day Massacre." Police shot down and killed 10 steelworkers peacefully demonstrating outside the notorious Tom Girdler's Republic Steel plant on the outskirts of Chicago.

The massacre broke the bloody Little Steel strike. Roosevelt condemned labor and management with "a plague on both your houses." Lewis, whose miners had

contributed \$500,000 to Roosevelt's campaign, thundered back:

"It ill behooves one who had supped at labor's table and who had been sheltered in labor's house to curse with equal fervor and fine impartiality both labor and its adversaries when they become locked in deadly embrace."

The CIO swept on through other mass production industry and into the hitherto nonunion white collar ranks.

The CIO, which had become the Congress of Industrial Organization, eventually merged with the AFL in a welding together of craft and industrial unions.

Hunger

continued from page 7

Democratic Senator George McGovern of South Dakota, who presided over the hearing, found the hunger picture in the Golden State "most distressing."

"We would hope that the State of California becomes urgently concerned about it," he said.

Senator McGovern's greatest expressed concern was for the "child who suffers from hunger who may have already suffered irreparable brain damage."

"If we are to offer free education," he said, "it seems to me a part of the education has to include adequate nutrition so that education can go on."

Steamfitters 342

BY JIM MARTIN

For your information, our Union's Negotiating Committee continues to meet with the Employers' Committee and some progress has been made to date in modifying our Union's major contract, which expires Midnight June 30, 1969.

During our negotiating sessions considerable time has been spent discussing non-cost items, with progress being made. This includes our Union's Vacation procedures and the withdrawals of same through a Pass Book procedure.

Our next meeting with the Employers is scheduled for Friday, June 27, 1969, and as you have been advised by letter, a Special Membership meeting will be held on Monday, June 30, 1969 in Hall M of the Labor Temple at which time a full report will be presented by the Union's Negotiating Committee, along with recommendations.

As this matter affects you and yours directly, again it is recommended that you arrange your affairs so you may be present.

The Chairman of our Union's Golf Club wishes to announce that any interested Golfers may join the Union's Golf Club. If you are interested in getting out of helping your wife with the household chores on the weekends, join the club and enjoy the fairways instead. For information on this matter you may call Babe Harrison, 935-4284, or Don Fullmore, 939-3084.

The results of our last Golf Tournament, played at John F. Kennedy Park in Napa, are as follows:

1st Flight—Bill Emigh, 73; W. Machue, 74; Jim Miller, 74, and Doyle Walker, 74.

2nd Flight—Jim Martin, 66; Ken Scoggins, 72, and Babe Harrison, 75.

In the gross scores, Bill Emigh with 89, Bill Phillips 93, Jim Miller 93, Jim Martin 93, and Walt Ray 94, were the high scores. Also Bill Emigh won the hole in one—158 yards, as his ball landed 19 inches from the cup. How about that!

See you June 30, 1969, and by the way, have you checked your dues book lately?

AFSCME 371 'Info'

BY NAT DICKERSON

Brother Carl Oliver, Executive Board Member of the Local, and custodian foreman of Wurster Hall, passed away in Herrick Memorial Hospital, on the 16th of June.

Funeral services were held at the Downs Memorial Methodist Church, 61st and Idaho Streets, Oakland; he and his wife were members, there. The Reverend Charles H. Belcher, Pastor, officiated at the church and Rolling Hills Park Cemetery, Richmond, where he was interred.

Services were jointly conducted with Acacia Lodge No. 7,

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F&A.M., Prince Hall affiliate, he having been a member for many year.

An indication of the high esteem in which he was held was the many segments of the University community plus neighbors who came to pay their respects. Carl resided at 5637 Ludwig Avenue, El Cerrito and will be missed by all who knew him.

An astounding fact noted, in some job classifications is, the great number of persons not adjusted to major union precepts and policies. From many conversations the writer has had with some University employees, he has found some, who have apparently been "brain-washed," by an old fashioned "fear culture." Sure, one should respect officials and the prerogatives of their authority, but an exaggerated form of respect (verging on worship), held by those who can see no fault in the "bosses," yet are always ready to condemn those on the same level as themselves, cannot contribute much to union endeavors.

Administrators are human. Some realize that contented employees do better work. There are others who decide that their major efforts should be in paring the work force, to the bone, in order to conserve the budget, resolving a very fine line between men and animals. So, shall we say that those in established authority are also capable of making mistakes?

Steel Machinists 1304

BY DAVE ARCA

Hi. Our Government, originally intended to be of the people, by the people, for the people, is presently imposing upon the people. Especially in California. That \$70 refund to property owners was a panacea to placate an irate public. Indignation because of overtaxation, prompted the refund.

Incredibly, the refund was followed almost immediately by notices of reassessment of homes. Those property tax increases more than repossess the refund. What a revolting development this is. Revolting, in the same sense as the Boston Tea Party. That was a taxpayers revolt too. It led to our American Revolution. Which created our own United States. Of which California is one.

Today, overtaxation is again becoming an impossible burden. All that we own, or hope to own is taxed by someone, somewhere, somehow. Taxes are draining the pitiful savings of California citizens, whether Senior, Middle-aged, or Young. Especially if we are, or have been, Workers.

We wonder what voters want? What more proof do we need? Is timidity so dear, and isolation so sweet, so as to be purchased at the price of semi-slavery? Come on, you taxpayers. We have the right to vote. Do we not have the courage? We know not what course others may take, but as for us, give us alleviation from taxation, or give us a new Administration. Okay? Okay.

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Sheet Metal Workers 216

BY ROBERT M. COOPER

They are erecting the barricades around the Kaiser Hospital at Broadway and MacArthur, which means that another job will be getting underway. This is a multi-story project and a hospital always has a lot of metal on it, so quite a few members should benefit from this job.

Last Friday night I visited with Bob Wilcox who is off work with a heart condition. He looked in pretty good shape under the circumstances and who knows but he might be able to return to the trade someday. He last worked for All Heating.

We held our job and shop stewards meeting last Friday afternoon with 30 stewards in attendance. We have approximately 140 stewards appointed, so it is evident that many were missing.

For your information, one of the new working rules stipulates that shop stewards shall attend all shop steward meetings, which shall be at least one per quarter. So take note!!

We intend to hold the next meeting in the evening in order to boost the attendance.

Please be advised that the 15 mile free zone does not extend beyond the limits of our jurisdiction. For example—if you work in San Francisco, the employer does not provide transportation. You arrive on the job at starting time and work until quitting time, and even if the employer's shop is less than 15 miles from the job, he must pay you mileage, travel time, to and from the San Francisco County Line.

Of course, bridge fare and parking expenses are extra.

Regular union meetings are every third Wednesday of the month at 8:00 p.m., in the Labor Temple, Oakland.

Members of the Tri-State Council Death Benefit Plan please note that Death Assessment No. 645 is still due and payable.

New way to rate health insurance

A point system to help unions evaluate negotiated health insurance plans were reported June 16 at the semi-annual meeting of the board of delegates of the California Council for Health Plan Alternatives.

The point system proposes a series of standards and point values, so the desirability of one plan can be more effectively weighed against another.

Some 140 union delegates attended the meeting in Los Angeles.

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BACKSTAGE stars of the Broadway play "The Front Page"—Robert Ryan and Peggy Cass—sign pledge cards in support of the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee boycott of table grapes. With them (left to right in rear) are Executive Secretary Angus Duncan and President Frederick O'Neal of Actors' Equity, and Mark Silverman of UFWOC.

Typographical Auxiliary

BY ELIZABETH FEE

Members of Woman's Auxiliary 26 have been invited by Dorothy Sporkin Skigen to hold the monthly meeting at her home, 1701 Redwood St., Vallejo, at 10:30 a.m., July 3, followed by a luncheon served by our hostess.

Gwen Frate, president was elected as delegate to the International Auxiliary convention to be held in Seattle in August. Betty Bowdish was elected to serve as alternate.

Members whose birthdays come in July and are present at the meeting will be honored.

Don't forget to save your rummage for sale on Sept. 8. Proceeds from our sales are used to carry on our activities.

L.A. clerk lockout ends

A three-week strike and lockout of 11,000 clerks in Los Angeles supermarkets ended this week when Retail Clerks 770 voted to accept a new three-year contract providing 80½ cents an hour more in wages and fringe benefits.

Guaranteed right to strike needed for public unions

State laws should firmly establish the right of public employees to union representation and meaningful collective bargaining, the AFLCIO told the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations.

AFLCIO Legislative Representatives Clinton Fair and Kenneth A. Meikeljohn said the bargaining procedures should be flexible enough to permit unions and public employer to work out solutions to complex problems. It should offer a variety of approaches to avoid strikes—but affirm the right to strike.

President Jerry Wurf of the State, County & Municipal Employees said some of the most bitter struggles in public employment have been fought to establish the right of public workers to union recognition and collective bargaining, Wurf noted.

"Disputes over recognition are responsible for more strikes in public employment than any

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OFFICIAL UNION NOTICES

HAYWARD CARPENTERS 1622

The office of the financial secretary is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays; from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursdays, and on Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to noon.

The steward's meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. The stewards' training program will be held in conjunction with the stewards' meeting.

Our regular meetings are held the second and fourth Thursdays of each month, at 8 p.m., 1050 Mattox Road, Hayward.

Our social event is held on the fourth Thursday of each month following our regular meeting.

The officers sincerely urge you to attend and take part in the proceedings of your Local Union.

Fraternally,
L. D. (Larry) TWIST,
Rec. Sec.

AUTO & SHIP PAINTERS 1176

Auto, Marine & Specialty Painters 1176 meets on the first and third Tuesdays of every month in Room H, Labor Temple, 2315 Valdez Street, Oakland, at 8 p.m.

Fraternally,
LESLIE K. MOORE,
Bus. Rep.

ALAMEDA CARPENTERS 194

Carpenters Local 194 meets each first and third Monday evenings of the month at 8 p.m. The meeting place is the Veterans Memorial Building, 2201 Central Avenue, Alameda.

Refreshments are served following the first meeting of the month in the canteen for all present. You are urged to attend your local's meeting.

Fraternally,
F. M. GLADDEN,
Rec. Sec.

PRINTING SPECIALISTS 382

Meeting second Friday of the month at 8 p.m. in Jenny Lind Hall, 2267 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland.

Fraternally,
JOHN G. FERRO,
Sec.

SHEET METAL WORKERS 216

The regular meetings are every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 8 p.m. in the Labor Temple.

Fraternally,
ROBERT M. COOPER,
Bus. Rep.

AUTOMOTIVE MACHINISTS 1546

The regular meetings of Lodge 1546 are held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at the hour of 8 p.m. at our building at 10260 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland.

Fraternally,
LEVIN CHARLES,
Rec. Sec.

STEEL MACHINISTS 1304

Regular meeting Thursday, July 3 at 8 p.m. Executive Board meets 6:30 p.m.

Please remember the Special subordinate membership meeting on Sunday, July 20, at 10:30 a.m. This is to allow night shift members to attend meetings. Please attend.

Fraternally,
DAVE ARCA,
Rec. Sec.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES 3

General membership meeting Hall C, Labor Temple, 2315 Valdez St., Oakland, hte fourth Friday of the month, 8 p.m.

Fraternally,
WRAY JACOBS,
Rec. Sec.

FSCME U.C. 371

Starting in July we will dispense with our regular meetings for the next three months due to vacations. However, the Executive Board will meet as usual in Room 155, Krober Hall, 1 p.m.

Our next regular meeting will be held on October 11. Negotiations will take place then.

Fraternally,
NAT DICKERSON,
Rec. Sec.

CARPENTERS 36

The regular meetings of Carpenters Local Union 36 are held the first and third Thursday of each month at 8460 Enterprise Way, Oakland, California 94621, at 8:00 p.m. Phone 569-3465.

The hours of the Financial Secretary's office is 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Friday the office closes at 1 p.m.

Effective July 1, 1969, dues will be increased to \$10.50 per month. Blood bank assessment number 12 in the amount of \$1.00 is now due and payable.

July 3, 1969, Thursday, 8 p.m. will be installation of all elected officers and delegates.

Fraternally,
CLAUDE W. DILLON,
Rec. Sec.

SERVICE EMPLOYEES 18

A special called meeting will be held at the Jenny Lind Hall, 2267 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland, on Wednesday, July 9, at 3 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting will be to vote on a dues increase of \$2 per month for the following groups: Window Cleaners, Golden Gate Field Employees and Coliseum Employees.

Article VIII of your Union's Constitution and By-Laws provide that a member must be in good standing to vote by secret ballot on a dues increase. Therefore, for your convenience, be sure to bring your dues book, stamped for the month of June, or a receipt for payment.

Remember the voting will be by secret ballot and you must be in good standing to participate.

Fraternally,
VICTOR C. BRANDT,
Sec.-Bus. Rep.

BERKELEY CARPENTERS 1158

Regular meetings are held the first and third Thursdays of each month at Finnish Brotherhood Hall, 1970 Chestnut St., Berkeley.

Be a good member. Attend union meetings. You may win a door prize.

Fraternally,
NICK J. AFDAMO,
Rec. Sec.

IRON WORKERS 378

Our Regular Executive Board meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month, 8 p.m.

Stewards meetings also are held the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 8 p.m.

Our regular membership meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month, 8 p.m.

Fraternally,
BOB McDONALD,
Bus. Agt.

CEMETERY WORKERS 322

Regular meeting will be Thursday, July 10, at 8 p.m. in the Labor Temple, 2315 Valdez Street, Oakland, due to holiday.

Following will be a meeting of all executive board and shop stewards to discuss constitutional and by-laws changes, duties of shop stewards and methods of making the union more effective. All members are invited to attend or send written suggestions to the president at 2555 Foothill Boulevard, Oakland.

Fraternally,
RAY NEWMAN,
President

PRINTING SPECIALTIES 678

Meeting second Thursday of the month at 8 p.m. in Cannery Workers Hall, 492 C Street, Hayward, Calif.

Fraternally,
AL CHASMAR,
Sec.

PAINT MAKERS 1101

The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 15, at 8 p.m. in Hall C at the Labor Temple, 2315 Valdez Street, Oakland.

Fraternally,
CARL LAWLER,
Rec. Sec.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY greetings are extended by Mrs. Martin Luther King Jr. to A. Philip Randolph at an 80th birthday tribute in New York to the civil rights leader who founded the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

BARBERS 134

Our regular meeting will be held on Thursday night, June 26, 1969 in the Labor Temple, 23rd and Valdez Streets, Oakland.

Jack M. Reed, Ray Luciano and Al Chammorro will be the delegates to the California State Convention in Long Beach on July 27, 28, and 29, 1969. Additional resolutions will be voted upon to present to the convention.

SPECIAL NOTICE: Joe Lopez and Tom Evans will give a demonstration in hair styling and also introduce some new products.

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND.

Fraternally,
JACK M. REED,
Sec. Treas.

UNITED STEELWORKERS 1798

Regular Membership Meeting Friday, June 27, 1969, 8:00 p.m.

Eagles Hall, 1228 - 36th Avenue, Oakland, Calif.

Fraternally yours,
EDWARD M. SOTO
Rec. Sec.

Better operations is counselor goal

Group counselors of Alameda County's Juvenile Hall have affiliated with East Bay Municipal Employees 390 and drafted a series of 14 contract demands for presentation to the Board of Supervisors.

Counselors' concerns include overcrowding of Juvenile Hall, poor treatment of youngsters and inadequate staffing.

They voted 4-1 in secret ballot for the union after hearing what both Local 390 and the Alameda County Employees Association has to offer. The county employs approximately 100 juvenile counselors.

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PG&E loses round in rate hike hearing

A Pacific Gas & Electric Company witness conceded at a state Public Utilities Commission hearing that construction costs the company submitted did not have much bearing on its request for a \$31,000,000 gas rate increase.

Company Engineer Don E. Nielsen had testified costs of new gas facilities would rise from \$60,000,000 this year to \$72,000,000 in 1972.

Under questioning of the California Labor Federation he conceded figures were based on PG&E's electrical load and total U.S. expenditures of public utilities and had little bearing on gas consumption.

Earlier the PUC examiner struck from the record a PG&E attempt to use rising labor and material costs to justify its request to charge gas consumers more.

Meanwhile PG&E told stockholders its net profit in the first three months this year was \$48,854,000 or \$5,800,000 higher than the same period last year.

PG&E's attempt to use labor costs as an excuse for a whopping rate increase was knocked out after the California Labor Federation protested the company made no allowance for increased labor productivity.

The PG&E witness conceded that in tabulating a 10-year rise in labor costs the company made no attempt to determine the increase in worker productivity.

Angry housewives, consumer, labor and governmental representatives all attacked the utility's request for a rate hike and a boost in the authorized rate of return from 6.25 per cent to 7.5.

They concentrated their criticism on PG&E's attempt to get consumers to pay the company's 10 per cent federal surtax.

"I don't have anyone paying my surcharge," said Mrs. Herman Fifer, San Francisco housewife, "and I'm not willingly about to pay anyone else's surcharge."

The Association of California Consumers presented petitions bearing 6,500 signatures pointing out the income tax surcharge was intended as "an anti-inflationary measure to be borne by everyone, individual citizens and corporations alike."

Earlier this year PG&E was granted a \$6,800,000 rate increase to offset an increase in rates by the El Paso Natural Gas Company.

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43rd Year, Number 15

June 27, 1969

JOHN M. ESHLEMAN, Editor

LEONARD MILLIMAN, Assistant to the Editor

1622 East Twelfth Street, Oakland, Calif. 94606

Phone 261-3981

Public boards create own generation gaps

The riot clubs, rifles and tear gas are missing. But otherwise there have been some uncomfortable parallels between the way public agencies today are dealing with unions on purely economic issues and the bloody opposition by diehard corporations to the advent of unions in private industry earlier in this century.

The public boards are using the same bloodless weapons employed by the captains of industry in earlier generations.

This throwback to a bygone era has been the answer to public unions at every level in Alameda County—city, county, schools, public utility. The degree to which the public boards have dipped in to industrial history has been geared to the degree the unions have developed as a challenge to the unilateral, patronizing control of the ruling body.

There has been intimidation, threats of reprisal, arrest of union leaders, bargaining instead with company unions (known today as associations), importing antiunion strikebreaking experts. These tactics all come out of the same ancient "law and order" package for dealing with unions as the riot clubs, rifles and tear gas.

All were useful to employers in the past in preserving profits and the industrialist's traditional paternalism.

Of course the public boards have no profits to preserve. They are elected by the people—people like union members—to represent the people. But paternalism is as traditional with them as it was the industrial magnate. It must be preserved.

President Dave Creque of the Oakland Federation of Teachers was arrested on an obscure felony charge after his union challenged the Oakland school board for exceeding its own budget in hiring an administrator while refusing to give the teachers even a cost of living increase or do anything to improve the deplorable state of education in Oakland schools.

The self-perpetuating board of directors of the East Bay Municipal Utility District dug even deeper into yesterday's antiunion kit of tools.

It hired a so-called expert from the heart of John Birchland in Orange County to create a strike. For this they gave him a down payment of \$6,500. Now they are paying him \$600 a month plus \$450 a day to break the strike he created. The cost of hiring him will be on your water bill or your tax bill. We aren't sure which; but you will pay.

With his high priced help EBMUD management dreamed up its own company union with which to negotiate and invoked the court injunction, at one time the favorite industrial weapon against unions.

The industrialists of a bygone era learned, after a period of blood and court injunctions and phony arrests, that they could make greater profits by negotiating with representatives their workers had chosen and providing a decent life for their employees.

But what of paternalism? Will the public boards go for blood before they learn that their public esteem will be enhanced by dealing with people as though they were people, rather than by methods long in disrepute in private industry? Or that they were elected not for their father image but to serve the public, which includes union members and their own employees?

Holdout farmers mouth sour grapes

After more than three and a half years of struggle, organized farm workers are finally sitting down at the bargaining table with 10 grape growers to talk about a contract.

It seems like a historic moment. But other vineyardists, who claim they are talking for most of California's table grape growers, say they want none of it.

The most galling part of this attitude is the reasons they give for not negotiating. They don't have the guts to say that they don't want to share their corporate profits with their workers.

Their story is that they are looking out for the interests of their workers, whom they underpay and house in clapboard shacks sometimes built alongside open cesspools; that they are guarding the interest of the consumer, whose grapes and environment they spray with deadly pesticides; that they are protecting the "public's right to eat when it wishes to do so," while the wealthy farmers collect millions of dollars from the government for not growing food.

What these corporate farmers really want is to continue paying and treating their workers like peons.

And when they do eventually negotiate, as they will, they want to be protected by new laws that will prevent workers from striking at harvest time—the only effective time to strike.

'And, Now, On Behalf of My Sponsor . . .'



AFL-CIO NEWS

STRIKE INSURANCE

Central labor and building trades councils throughout California are being alerted to the dangers inherent in plans of the Association of General Contractors to make strike insurance—purchased from a foreign firm—available to all elements of the construction industry.

"It's another major step in a long simmering attempt by big business interests to spike the capability of unions to strike effectively and to destroy the protections presently afforded to workers under the National Labor Relations Board," said Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation.

"Some long, tough and probably bitter contract battles are likely to face union building trades workers and organized labor" as a result of the strike insurance.

The proposed AGC insurance program would start next January with claims payable after July 1, 1970. Strike insurance would cover 60 normal working days, starting after 10 days of work stoppage.

This means that a contractor could sit out 70 working days of a strike under protective cover of the insurance.

It is to be offered to contractors regardless of whether their employees are unionized. It is also to be made available to subcontractors, construction equipment manufacturers, suppliers of materials and project owners.

The insurance would be written by a firm affiliated with Lloyds of London.

It would be written exclusively as individual policies. That is, there would be no multi-employer group insurance.

It is intended to cover strikes, picketing, boycotts, lockouts, all types of labor related work stoppages that interrupt construction.

"Labor dispute" is defined as encompassing secondary and consumer boycotts, lockouts by multi-employer groups, organizing, union recognition, jurisdictional disputes, strikes and picketing.

OPINIONS

YOU WRITE 'EM . . .
WE RUN 'EM!

LIVING MEMORIALS FOR A UNIONIST

(Editor's Note: The following exchange of letters tells how the life insurance benefits and other assets left by an Oakland member of Cooks 228 are being used for the things in which she was most interested).

Mr. P. L. Sander, Sec'y.
Cooks Union, Local 228
Oakland

Dear Mr. Sander:

Enclosed is check for \$150 made out to COPE, as a contribution to the memory of my late sister, Emma Oliver. I am in accord with the efforts to better the conditions of the working man. I belong to the Musicians Union here, and it is a constant struggle to keep people employed. As far as possible, I work in cooperation with labor's aims. The Amalgamated Bank is a labor bank. The building where I live is financed by a mortgage put up by the Ladies Garment Workers' Union.

In addition to working for material benefits, I think there should also be emphasis on the health angle. My late sister would be alive today if she had gone to a doctor four years ago when she started to have chest pains. But, somehow or other, she did not want to go to a doctor. Said they always found something wrong. She was trained as a nurse, but so far as I know, did not continue. She was cremated, and her ashes are interred in the Chapel of the Chimes.

Emma's interest lay in the problems of the aged, and she always said that if she had the money, she would help them. So, accordingly, I am arranging a project with the Home for the Aged at Sargata, under the auspices of the Odd Fellows. Emma was a member of Rebekah Sunset Lodge No. 109, and had been its District Deputy President for

1966-67. I shall be in Oakland sometime during August to discuss the matter with the trustees. My sister and I are not using any of the insurance money, or such assets as Emma had to pay the funeral expenses. We are assuming those, in addition to adding to the funds necessary to make the project for the aged a satisfactory one.

MARION BERGMAN

Dear Miss Bergman:

At the regular meeting of the Central Labor Council on Monday, June 16, Mr. Pat Sander, Secretary of the Cooks Union and Vice President of our Council presented the Council with a check in the amount of \$150 to be used for our COPE activities.

As you probably are aware the primary purpose of COPE is to further the aims and needs of the working man.

May I assure you that these funds will be used for those purposes.

On behalf of the Central Labor Council I extend my sincere appreciation for your most generous donation in the memory of your dear sister Emma Oliver.

It may be of some comfort to you to know that this labor council has long been active in securing and providing adequate health insurance for the people whom we represent.

I also extend to you my personal thanks for your thoughtful contribution.

Sincerely,

RICHARD K. GROULX,
Executive Secretary

★ ★ ★

COMPANY GROWTH

"The greatest growth period in the history of our company and its employees has come about during the 12 year period when our employees were represented by a major AFLCIO union."—Frank E. Vaughn, personnel manager for Hoover Company.



GRAPE BOYCOTT pickets paraded in front of two major Safeway stores in Oakland September 14 in support of the international campaign against the purchase of California

table grapes produced by antiunion corporations and big growers. This photo shows one of the lines at the 19th & Broadway store of the Safeway chain, major outlet of the grapes.

Unique gas decision stops El Paso corporation deal

In a strange, bitterly contested ruling last week the United States Supreme Court kept open a hope of breaking up the gas supply monopoly to California.

It's a 12 year old case against El Paso Natural Gas Company that has the monopoly.

Everybody involved in the case had dropped out. Nobody wanted to appeal.

Then along came William Bennett as a "consumer spokesman" from California and told the court it was being used for unlawful ends. He asked the court to take a look on its own.

Bennett was opposed by a dozen parties including the U.S. Justice Department and the public utility commissions of California, Idaho, Oregon, Washington and Utah—all of which had once been pushing the case and theoretically should have been on the same side as Bennett. He is an old foe of El Paso Gas and was a California Public Utility Commissioner until replaced by Governor Reagan.

The high court took a look, as Bennett suggested, and then ruled the way he wanted.

The question was whether El Paso was doing what the Supreme Court told it to do in a previous decision—that is sell Pacific Northwest Pipeline Corporation so that it could become a competitor in supplying natural gas to California.

El Paso had bought Pacific Northwest in 1956 when Pacific Northwest showed signs of supplying out-of-state gas to California.

In 1964 the Supreme Court ruled the merger violated the

Clayton Antitrust Act. It told El Paso to get rid of Pacific Northwest and set it up so it could compete in California.

El Paso worked out an agreement to sell the properties to Colorado Interstate Corporation. U.S. District Judge Hatfield Chilson in Denver approved last year.

It looked as though a half dozen of the protesting parties, including the Justice Department, would appeal early this year. But one by one they faded out of the picture, except for the Utah Public Service Commission.

The Utah agency filed an appeal and then asked that it be withdrawn. Normally the court clerk would take care of it and the justices wouldn't even know. But then Bennett came into the picture.

As a result the court looked into the El Paso-Colorado Interstate arrangement.

It found that El Paso wasn't

really getting rid of Pacific Northwest and wasn't supplying it enough gas so that it could become a competitor in California.

Under the arrangement El Paso would receive 5,000,000 shares of the new company preferred, convertible stock and the new company would assume \$170,000,000 of El Paso's debt.

Chief Justice Earl Warren said the high court had ordered complete divestiture and this wasn't it.

"Only a cash sale will satisfy the rudiments of complete divestiture," he wrote in the 4-2 majority opinion. The two dissenting justices attacked his rule as headstrong.

Warren also told El Paso to make sure that whoever buys the old Pacific Northwest gets enough gas resources so that it can supply gas by pipeline to California and hopefully supply competitive gas to this state.

That's still a long way off.

Carpenters sign nationwide modular housing agreement

The first national contract guaranteeing all union-built manufactured housing from assembly line by the Carpenters in was signed by the Carpenters in Washington.

The agreement is with Stirling Homex Corporation, East Coast manufacturers of "instant housing" units. It provides for journeyman erection of factory built Stirling modules "anywhere in the nation."

But there was no indication that Stirling planned to move into the West.

The modules are constructed by lower paid, assembly line members of the Carpenters union—complete with wiring, plumbing, windows and even carpeting.

Other crafts were not involved in the pact. Both parties said members of other unions would do their jurisdictional work on the site. Theodore W. Kheel, New York mediator and a director of

Stirling, said national contracts with other unions for on site construction would be negotiated if needed.

Executive Secretary J. Lamar Childers of the Alameda County Building & Construction Trades Council was less than enthusiastic about the nationwide agreement.

"I think it is extending the poverty line and not meeting the situation," Childers commented. "I don't see why anyone should work for less wages merely because they are working in a plant."

"I think it is the wrong approach."

"We have discussed modular construction with several interested firms here. We have pointed out that we are willing to accept a modified approach with some people in plant construction at a lower wage rate."

"But certainly nothing like \$4 an hour. That is not a realistic wage for a man with a family, I don't care what he is doing."

from the EDITOR'S CHAIR

Continued from page 1

was my idea that I was in the jaws of death when a surgeon, after warning me there was "some risk," opened me up to remove some defective plumbing. I didn't believe I was doomed, I just knew it. So I was agreeably surprised when I woke up later that day, minus what had been making me ill on and off for a year. I continue to be agreeably surprised as I recover a bit more each day and wait for the doctor's final OK to get back to my desk.

Chauffeurs Union seeks restoration of Luxury cab pact

Chauffeurs 923 is trying to bring Luxury Cab back under contract but is running into opposition from Owner Bill Andrade.

Secretary-treasurer Richard Sequeira said the Chauffeurs have pledge cards from the employees but Andrade has refused even to accept mediation.

"And he is a member of 923 and enjoys its benefits," Sequeira said. "We are at a point where we will have to go to economic action."

CLRC challenges two-thirds majority for school bonds

California Rural Legal Assistance is challenging the constitutional requirement of a two-thirds vote to pass school bonds.

CLRC argues that the requirement gives voting "No" twice the influence of those voting "Yes." Therefore, it says, the provision violates the principle of one man one vote.

The challenge was filed in mid-June in Sutter County Superior Court in behalf of low income parents of children in the Yuba City Unified School District.

In a recent election in the district a school bond issue favored by 57 per cent of the voters failed. The vote was 2,842 Yes and 2,167 No. In an ordinary election this would have been a landslide victory.

CLRC attorney John Moulds said on behalf of the petitioners:

"These are low income people who are trying to provide their children with greater educational opportunities than they themselves had."

"Under California law they are charged with the responsibility

for their children's education. Yet although they were a part of the majority of those voting, their will was frustrated."

If the CLRC is successful the decision would have far reaching effects. A recent survey showed that of 96 school bond issues defeated in California last year, 79 of them actually received approval of the majority of the voters.

Only three other states have the two-thirds requirement—Idaho, Kentucky and Mississippi.

The Idaho law was recently held unconstitutional. It is currently on appeal before the Idaho Supreme Court.

Whatever the decision of the Sutter County Superior Court, that case will undoubtedly go to the California Supreme Court. So a decision, one way or the other, is a long way off.

New faces to fill officer posts in CLTW Local 1290

Carpet, Linoleum & Tile Workers 1290 elected an almost complete set of new officers last week.

Bob Beard defeated former vice president Armand Silva for president. Leno Russell was unopposed for vice president.

Anthony Cappello was elected business representative over Lee Schoenenberger, former president who had been business representative since last November.

Bill Simpson was reelected warden in one of the few repeats. Fred Claypole is the new trustee.

On the Executive Board Wayne Collins joined Jim Clark and Lee Robinson who were reelected.

All posts are for two year terms except business representative, which is three years.

More than 200 turned up for the secret ballot election, complete with voting booths, held after the regular business meeting of the local.

Nurses strike 8th hospital as talks hit new stalemate

The California Nurses Association extended its strike Monday to Alta Bates Community Hospital in Berkeley—the eighth Bay Area hospital struck—after a breakdown in weekend negotiations.

Major dispute with the Associated Hospitals of the East Bay & San Francisco is over the nurses demand that the administration consult nurses professional performance committees on staffing and nursing assignments. And arbitration of disputes.

The breakdown in weekend mediation came over employer refusal to submit unresolved issues to arbitration.

Struck hospitals include Children's, Alameda, Herrick, Peralta and Providence in the East Bay, and St. Francis and French in San Francisco.

The walkout June 12 was originally against five hospitals.

Theater strike ends in S.F. after 14 months

A 14 month strike and lockout ended in all but one of San Francisco's theaters this week after owners agreed to negotiate a new contract. Still struck is the Crown Theater.

Owners had locked out janitors in some 30 San Francisco movie houses after nine were struck in April, 1968.

New Steelworkers local at American Can has election

A newly formed Oakland United Steelworkers local has its first set of officers already to take over when it gets a charter.

The local was formed by merger of Locals 4468 and 4689, both at American Can Company in Oakland. They have been under administration for four years.

In a June election members chose Floyd Musgrove president from a field of five. Musgrove had been president of 4468 for 14 years.

Al Perez, of 4689, was elected vice president from a field of six.

Estella Stephens of 4468 defeated Frank McIntosh for recording secretary. Howard Busch of 4689 won over Frank Atencio for treasurer.

Mel Johnson was unopposed for financial secretary.

Nobody knows just when they will officially take office.

Leaders in union and church confer

Prominent religious and church leaders were among some 40 people attending a conference of the Center for War/Peace Studies in Puerto Rico last week. Executive Secretary - Treasurer Richard K. Groulx reported on his return Sunday.

Subject of the conference was why voluntary organizations such as labor unions and churches do not have a greater influence on national affairs.

"I've never been at a meeting where people had a better vocabulary or a more glib approach," Groulx said. "We spent two days discussing almost nothing. It was not too productive."

Bungling burglar wrecks safes but gets no cash

An incompetent burglar broke into the office of Cooks 28 last Sunday, badly damaged two safes and stole two typewriters and an adding machine.

He got no cash. He couldn't open either safe. If he had, he still wouldn't have gotten any money, said Cooks President Jack Faber, because "Our money is deposited daily."